

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being anticipated by the cited Hideki reference. In response, however, the independent claims of the application have been amended and four new claims have been presented. It is believed that each one of the claims as now set forth in the application is allowable for the reasons set forth herein.

In particular, amended independent Claims 1 and 4 require "a link member connected between said holding member and said regulating member", and they require "said regulating member, connected with said link member, is moved to said retracted position in association with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover." According to the invention of Claims 1 and 4, an inexpensive apparatus can be provided which is compact in size which lessens the damage of a sheet that may become caught in a regulating member in a jam clearance.

Referring now to new independent Claim 13, there is required "a link member connected to said cover and said regulating member to be moved by an opening movement of said openable and closable cover when said openable and closable cover is opened and to move said regulating member". Claim 13 also requires that "said link member is moved by the opening movement of said openable and closable cover so that said regulating member is moved from said regulating position to said retracted position." Accordingly, the apparatus of Claim 13 provides the same advantage as characterized above with respect to Claims 1 and 4.

In summary, according to the invention, the regulating member, connected with the link member, is moved to the retracted position in association with the opening

operation of the openable and closable cover. Therefore, the invention can dispense with a dedicated drive device for moving the regulating member when the cover is opened, a drive transmitting portion for transmitting a drive from the dedicated drive device, and a control system for controlling the dedicated drive device. As a result, the apparatus becomes inexpensive and compact in size.

Referring now to the cited Hideki reference, Applicants respectfully submit that Hideki does not disclose their claimed "link member connected between said holding member and said regulating member", and that claimed requirement together with the claimed requirements for those elements, are believed to provide a patentable distinction over the disclosure of Hideki. Also, as for the holding member, the Office Action points to the element designated by the reference numeral 23 and the description in paragraph [0023] in Hideki. However, Hideki does not disclose that a holding member rotatably holds a feeding member and moves a link member to move a regulating member. In Hideki, a drive transmitting system comprising a gear 27, a cam 40, and a lever 42a moves the regulating member (see [0026]). Therefore, Hideki does not disclose the features of the link member as claimed and as discussed above.

Furthermore, as amended, Claims 1 and 4 include the requirement that "said regulating member, connected with said link member, is moved to said retracted position in association with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover." In this regard, the Office Action points out that paragraphs [0051-0052] in Hideki describe that an opening and closing state of an openable and closable cover 3 is detected to input information into a main controller 21 so that the main controller 21 controls a movement of a stopper claw 41. According to the invention as now claimed, however, the regulating

member, together with the link member, is moved to the retracted position in association with the opening operation of the openable and closable cover (by a user). Therefore, the invention of Claims 1 and 4 is clearly patentably distinct over the disclosure of the Hideki reference.

Independent Claim 13 requires “a link member connected to said cover and said regulating member to be moved by an opening movement of said openable and closable cover when said openable and closable cover is opened and to move said regulating member”, and requires that “said link member is moved by the opening movement of said openable and closable cover so that said regulating member is moved from said regulating position to said retracted position.” As clearly distinguished from this structure Hideki discloses that the main controller 21 controls the movement of the stopper claw 14. Therefore, Hideki does not disclose the features of Claim 13.

With regard to other prior art, an Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith identifying a Japanese reference identified as the Kazuyuki publication. That reference discloses that in “association with the descent of pickup arms 7, 8, the engaging member 17 is disengaged from the engaging piece 22, and the driving member 19 is lifted by an urging force of the elastic member 20. According to this, the shutter 21 is also lifted.” (on Column 7, lines 21-24). However, that reference does not disclose the features of Claims 1 and 4 that require “said link member being moved by said holding member to move said regulating member to said retracted position when said holding member is moved to said feeding position, and said link member being moved by said holding member to move said regulating member to said regulating position when said holding member is moved to said feeding stop position” and the feature in that in that “said

link member is movably mounted on said openable and closable cover, and said regulating member connected with said link member, is moved to said retracted position in association with an opening operation of said openable and closable cover”.

Also, that reference does not disclose the feature of Claim 13 that requires “a link member connected to said cover and said regulating member to be moved by an opening movement of said openable and closable cover when said openable and closable cover is opened and to move said regulating member” and the feature in that “said link member is moved by the opening movement of said openable and closable cover so that said regulating member is moved from said regulating position to said retracted position.”

For these various reasons it is believed that the claims, as now presented, are patentably distinct over the Hideki reference, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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